AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate wherein more than 80% of the un-agglomerated particles in the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of isolating a fraction of unbroken or whole particles having a higher average particle strength than the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 comprising:

(a) providing a substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material to be improved;

(b) providing a liquid;

(c) subjecting the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material and liquid to high shear treatment wherein the amount of liquid added and the high shear rate is adjusted as to substantially avoid agglomeration of substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material; and

(d) separating a desired fraction of particles, wherein the desired fraction of particles obtained by separation has a higher average particle strength compared to the same fraction obtained from the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material provided in (a).

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material is characterised by having a particle size of at least 50 µm.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material is characterized by having a particle size of at least 100 µm.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material is characterized by having a particle size of at least 200 µm.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material is characterized by having a particle size of less than 800 µm.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material has a density of at least 1.3 g/cm^3.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material has a density of at least 1.5 g/cm^3.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material is granules comprising an active compound.

Claim 11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the active compound is an enzyme.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material is selected from the group of salt and sugar.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is water or oil.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is aqueous.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is a saturated solution of one or more of the compounds present in the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material.

Claim 16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein salt, carbohydrates, binders, fibres, fillers, or other conventional coating materials are added to the liquid.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material is water soluble.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the high shear treatment performed in a high shear mixer and the applied shear is in the range of 0.5 and 3 s^{-1}.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of drying a high shear treated particulate material.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material and liquid are exposed to high shear until at least 5 % of the particles are destroyed or broken down to a size outside the size distribution of the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material.

Claims 21-26 (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 85% of the un-agglomerated particles in the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 90% of the un-agglomerated particles in the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 95% of the un-agglomerated particles in the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 98% of the un-agglomerated particles in the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting a substantially un-agglomerated enzyme granule starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate in an amount of $0.5s^{-1}$ to $3.0s^{-1}$, wherein more than 80% of the un-agglomerated enzyme granule in the substantially un-agglomerated enzyme granule starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 further comprising isolating a fraction of particles comprising unbroken or whole particles from the substantially un-agglomerated enzyme granule starting material.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the fraction is a selection of enzyme granules having a diameter of 300 μm to 600μm.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting a substantially un-agglomerated starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate in an amount of $0.5s^{-1}$ to $3.0s^{-1}$, wherein more than 80% of the substantially un-agglomerated starting material remains un-agglomerated, and wherein the starting material is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical granules, enzyme granules, fertilizer granules, salt particles, sugar particles, and carbohydrate particles.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the particle material is salt particles, carbohydrate particles, and combinations thereof.

Claim 36. (New) A method for preparing a particulate composition comprising:

(a) fractioning a particulate starting material to a size above 300 micrometers;

(b) providing a liquid;

(c) subjecting the particulate starting material and liquid to high shear treatment until at least 5% of the particulate starting materials are destroyed or broken down to a size below 300 micrometers;

(d) separating a desired fraction of particles wherein the desired fraction of particles obtained by separation has a higher average particle strength compared to the same the particulate material provided in step (a); wherein more than 80% of the particulate starting materials in step (c) are un-agglomerated, and wherein the starting material is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical granules, enzyme granules, fertilizer granules, salt particles, sugar particles, and carbohydrate particles.

37. (New) A method according to claim 36, wherein the desired fraction of particles is characterized as unbroken or whole particles having a higher average particle strength than the particulate starting material.

38. (New) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting initially un-agglomerated particulate starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate wherein more than 80% of the un-agglomerated particles in the substantially un-agglomerated particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

39. (New) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising:

(a) preselecting un-agglomerated particulate starting material;

(b) contacting the preselected un-agglomerated particulate starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate wherein more than 80% of the un-agglomerated particles in the preselected unagglomerated particulate starting material remain unagglomerated.